(b) whether facilities to facilitate the operation of daily flights from Delhi to the above stations and vice-versa are likely to be provided at these airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Kullu and Kangra airports in Himachal Pradesh are in the process of expansion and modernisation. There is no scope for expansion of Shimla Airport.

(b)The facilities provided at Kullu and Kangra airprots will facilitate operation of 50 seater type of aircraft.

(c) Works of new terminal building, car park, extension of runway and provision of apron etc. are nearing completion at an estimated cost of Rs. 11 crores and the work of new control tower and fire station at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.84 crores is planned in Kangra airport.

At Kullu airport, work of apron and taxiway is in progress, the work of new terminal building for 100 passengers, car park and fire station at an estiamted cost of Rs. 7.55 crores is planned and the extension of runway from 3700 feet to 5500 feet will be undertaken by AAI after the required land is made available by State Government and feasibility of construction of runway is established.

Recommendation of aircraft evaluation committee

1413. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Aircraft Evaluation Committee has recommended purchase of Boeing 737-800 aircrafts for Air India;

(b) if so. by when a final decision will be taken; and

(c) the number of aircrafts to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHR! RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 8.11.2003 approved the proposal for

acquisition of 10 medium capacity long-range (A-340-300) and 18 small Capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,589 crores. The Project Report relating to this proposal has not yet been received by the Government.

Accidents involving private airlines

1414. SHRI G.K. VASAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents involving aircrafts run by private operations; and

(b) the action taken against such operators for not taking safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) There had been 11 accidents to Indian Civil Registered Aircraft belonging to private operators from 01.01.2001 to 30.11.2003.

(b) In order to enhance the safety standard, corrective action, as deemed appropriate, on the recommendations emanting from investigation of accidents are taken on a continuous basis.

Phasing out of Aircrafts with Al

1415. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of aircrafts available with Air India;

(b) how many are proposed to be phased out and how many are likely to be acquired;

(c) what is the total cost involved in the phasing out and the acquisition; and

(d) by when the piocess is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) 31.

(b) to (d) The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on